(a) whether the growing incidence of poaching in-the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve poses a serious threat of wiping out endangered species like snow leopard, musk deer and Himalayan bear;

(b) if so, the population of these and other endangered species in this and other reserved national parks, etc., in the country as per the last three census; and

(c) what effective steps have been and are being taken to protect, preserve and promote these species?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIT. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Government of Uttaranchal, there is no such serious threat to the endangered species like snow leopard, musk deer and the Himalayan bear in Nanda Devi National Park. Steps such as regular patrolling, support of local people through eco-development activities, training of field staff, increase in manpower, intelligence gathering etc., are being taken besides the ban on hunting, to protect and preserve these species.

Illegal transportation of turtles

1840. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal transportation of rare and valuable turties from Ganges and other rivers in North India towards Eastern parts of the country, even to Bangladesh, is going on;

(b) if so, how many times seizure of turtie consignments have been made during 2001 -2002; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government against such illegal transport?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) Several seizures of turties under illegal transportation

have been made in Uttar Pradesh, and, in and around Kolkata during 2001 - 02. Some of the important seizure cases are as under:—

Si. No	Date of seizure	Quantity	Location of seizure
1.	19-4-2001	10quintals	Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)
2.	29.5.2001	8nos.	Delhi
3.	16-8-2001	109 nos.	Burdwan (West Bengal)
4.	6-11-2001	18nos.	Delhi
5.	9-12-2001	45 quintals	Banaras (Uttar Pradesh)
6.	22-12-2001	155nos.	Burdwan (West Bengal)
7.	18-1-2002	1531 nos.	Bhangar (West Bengal)
8.	29-1-2002	30 kgs.	Habra (West Bengal)

(c) The steps taken by Government against such illegal transport are:—

- Improved vigilance around places of transit like railway stations, check posts on highways, etc.
- Coordination with other departments, like Railways, police, etc.
- Awareness generation among people to sensitise them against illegal transport of turties.
- At border check post with Bangladesh contacts have been made with customs department, police department, Border Security Force, district administration and panchayats, etc. for maintaining strict vigil.

Modernisation of food industry

1841. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new USA Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Act, providing security to the US food safety and security strategy, was signed by the US President on June 12,2002;

(b) whether country's exports to our food industry is modernized to meet US standards, USA and Western countries would be adversely affected; and